

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING



Approximately **500,000** U.S. children aged 1–5 years have blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood

The major sources of lead exposure in the U.S. are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in and around homes and buildings built before 1978

OTHER SOURCES OF LEAD INCLUDE



Hobbies that include the use of lead, such as hunting, fishing, making stained-glass windows, target shooting



Work that includes the use of lead, such as recycling or making car batteries, painting, radiator repair



Drinking water contaminated with lead, usually from lead pipes, leaded solder, brass fixtures, or valves



Folk medicines and remedies, such as azarcon and greta, which are used for upset stomach or indigestion; pay-loo-ah, which is used for rash or fever

PREVENTION



Ask a doctor to test your child if you are concerned about his or her exposure to lead



Have your home tested for lead if you live in a house or apartment built before 1978, especially if young children live with you or visit you



Damp-mop floors, damp-wipe surfaces, and frequently wash your child's hands, pacifiers, and toys to reduce exposure



Use only cold water from the tap for drinking, cooking, and for making baby formula. Hot water is more likely than cold water to contain higher levels of lead



Avoid using folk remedies (such as azarcon, greta, and pay-loo-ah) and cosmetics (such as kohl and alkohl) that contain lead

LEARN MORE

Visit CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to learn more about childhood lead poisoning
www.cdc.gov/ephtracking



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for
Environmental Health